

REMARKS

Applicant requests reconsideration and reexamination of the above-identified application. The following remarks state Applicant's bases for making this request and are organized according to the Examiner's Action.

CLAIMS REJECTIONS - 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

1. The Examiner states that claims 1-8 and 11-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Brun (U.S. Patent No. 5,793,522) in view of Meginnis (U.S. Patent No. 4,436,375).

The Examiner states that "with respect to claims 1 and 6, Brun discloses an infrared sight glass (7) for fitting over an aperture (8) on an enclosure of electrical equipment (3) for thermographic inspection comprising: means for supporting (11) an infrared transmitting medium (10); means for attaching (21) the supporting means (11) adjacent to the aperture (8) on the enclosure of the electrical equipment (3); and means for attaching (27) a cover (26) to an outer surface of the supporting means (11). Brun discloses the supporting means (11) comprises holes (25) for receiving screws to attach said supporting means to the enclosure. The Examiner further states that Brun does not expressly disclose attaching the supporting means without accessing an inside of the enclosure".

Applicant wishes to point out that Brun, in Column 4, line 65 to Column 5, line 11 teaches that the set of screws 21 hold the observation window 7 immobilized against the face 9 of panel 2 and the fixing screws 21 are entirely invisible from the outside of the screened cabinet 1. This of course means that the screws 21 are on the inside of the cabinet 1 thereby requiring access to the inside of cabinet 1 which is not required by the present invention. Claim 1 of the present invention calls for "means for attaching the supporting means adjacent to said aperture on the enclosure of the electrical equipment without accessing an inside of the enclosure"; and Claim 6 calls for "said supporting means comprises holes for receiving screws to attach said supporting means to said enclosure from outside said enclosure". This is an important feature of this invention because once this infrared sight glass is installed on an enclosure, it can be removed or replaced without shutting down the equipment operating within the enclosure.

The Examiner then states that Meginnis discloses a sight glass where the supporting means (10) is attached via attaching means (20) through holes (21) without accessing an inside of the enclosure. However, Applicant wishes to point out that Meginnis shows a sightglass assembly having a housing structure 10 mounted to the side of a vessel wall 19 using a plurality of

bolts 20 inserted into holes 21, but it is important to notice that the bolts 20 are completely visible and lend themselves to easy access and removal from the side of the vessel wall 19. The present invention teaches the use of three counter sunk screws 17a, 17b, and 17c which are inserted through the outer frame 11 and counter sunk screws 17a, 17b, and 17c are covered by a gasket 18 and a security cover 19 which are secured in place by the security screws 20a and 20b. Further, the heads of the counter sunk screws 17a, 17b, and 17c lend themselves to being covered with an adhesive for added security.

However, in order to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the present invention, Applicant is amending Claim 1 to now call for:

"An infrared sight glass for fitting over an aperture on an enclosure of electrical equipment for thermographic inspection comprising:

means for supporting an infrared transmitting medium, said supporting means comprises a double sided self-adhesive gasket positioned between said infrared transmitting medium and a recessed portion of said supporting means;

means for attaching the supporting means adjacent to said aperture on the enclosure of the electrical equipment without accessing an inside of

the enclosure; and

means for attaching a cover to an outer surface of the supporting means, said cover attaching means providing security to prevent unauthorized removal of said cover."

Applicant believes that Claim 1 (as amended) is not obvious from Brun in view of Meginnis and that Claim 1 is now patentable. Applicant has cancelled Claims 3 - 4, and the limitations in such claims are added to Claim 1.

The Examiner states with respect to Claim 2 that Brun discloses the cover 26 which comprises security keying (Column 5, lines 12-34). Brun states that the cover 26 is fastened to the support 11 by means of a screw 27 forming a pivot pin, this screw being fitted into a counterbore 28 in the cover shaped so that the head 29 of the screw does not project outwards from the cover, its threaded part 30 being engaged in a tapped housing 31 in the support. However, Applicant wishes to point out that this arrangement of the cover 26 and pivot pin in Brun is not a security keying as described in the present invention (Page 1, Lines 1 - 19) where it describes security screws 20a and 20b having a head with an internal star with a pin in the middle. Applicant has amended Claim 2 to more particularly describe the features of the cover 19 which distinguishes the security cover 19 of the present invention from the cover 26 in

Brun.

The Examiner states that with respect to Claim 3, Brun discloses the supporting means (11) comprises a first gasket (15) positioned between said infrared transmitting medium (10) and recessed portion of the supporting means (11) (FIG. 2). Applicant wishes to point out that Brun does not teach the use of a gasket comprising a two sided self-adhesive gasket within the supporting means 11. Instead, Brun teaches (in FIG. 2 and in Column 4, lines 46-48) that "the insert 10 is immobilized in the support 11 by means of a bead of adhesive 15 which preferably consists of an adhesive mastic of the polyurethane or similar type". The adhesive in Brun provides a seal, but the seal is not produced by a "gasket". The use of a gasket is simpler and more efficient during the assembly of supporting means. Applicant has cancelled Claim 3 and added the limitation of Claim 3 into Claim 1.

The Examiner states with respect to Claim 4, Brun discloses that the first gasket (18) comprises a double-sided self-gasket. As described above, Brun does not disclose a double-sided self-adhesive gasket, but instead discloses in Column 4, lines 46-64 the use of a bead of adhesive 15, not a double-sided self-adhesive gasket to seal the transparent insert 10 with the support 11. However, Applicant has cancelled Claim 4 and added the limitation of "a double sided

self-adhesive gasket" to Claim 1.

The Examiner states that with respect to Claim 5, Brun discloses a second gasket (12) which is positioned between a ring surface (13) of said supporting means (11) and a corresponding surface around the aperture (8) of said enclosure (2). Applicant wishes to point out that Brun does not have a second gasket, but instead has a mastic bead 15 and an O-ring 13 as described in Column 2, line 60, Column 3, line 7, Column 4, line 58, and Column 5, line 11. Therefore, because there is no second gasket as in the present invention, Applicant believes that Claim 7 is patentable, and particularly because Claim 7 is dependent on Claim 1 as amended, which Applicant believes is likewise patentable.

The Examiner states that with respect to Claim 7, Brun and Meginnis are silent to the addition of a tag shield to the sight glass, and that it is well known to attach tags to any objects at a variety of positions, and that Claim 7 is obvious. However, Applicant wishes to point out that Claim 7 is dependent on Claim 1 (as amended), and Applicant believes that Claim 1 is now patentable so dependent Claim 7 is patentable.

The Examiner states that with respect to Claim 8, Brun and Meginnis are silent to the further addition of gaskets on either side of the tag shield and that it would have been

obvious to modify the teachings of Brun to add a third gasket attached between said tag shield and a ring surface of said supporting means, and a fourth gasket attached between said tag shield and around the aperture of said enclosures. However, Applicant wishes to point out that Claim 8 is dependent on Claim 7 and Claim 7 is dependent on Claim 1. Applicant believes that Claim 1 (as amended) is now patentable so dependent Claim 8 is likewise patentable.

The Examiner states that with respect to Claims 11-13, Brun and Meginnis are silent to a method of manufacturing such a device, the steps of supporting, attaching, and providing are very broad, and that Claims 11-13 are rejected for the same reasons previously stated regarding Claims 1, 6 and 7 respectively. However, Applicant is amending Claim 11 to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the present invention. Claim 11 now calls for:

"A method of fitting an infrared sight glass over an aperture of an enclosure of electrical equipment for thermographic inspection comprising the steps of:

providing an infrared transmitting medium;

positioning a first double sided self-adhesive gasket between said infrared transmitting medium and a recessed portion of a frame;

attaching said frame adjacent to said aperture on

said enclosure without accessing an inside of said enclosure; and

providing a security cover to attach on an outer surface of said frame to prevent unauthorized removal of said security cover."

The Examiner states that Claims 9, 10, 14 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Brun (US Patent No. 5,793,522) in view of Meginnis (US Patent No. 4,436,375) and in further view of Roby (US Patent 2,013,448).

The Examiner further states that Brun and Meginnis disclose or suggest all the limitations of claims 1 and 11. While Brun and Meginnis do not expressly disclose diametrically opposite holes for receiving the attaching means or screws with predetermined keying, Roby discloses a sight glass cover (35) comprises diametrically opposite keyhole slots (61) for receiving screws (41) with predetermined keying to fit the keyhole slots and enabling the cover to be moved into a secured position on the sight glass (fig. 5).

Applicant wishes to point out that Robey teaches in Fig. 5 a particular design of cover plate 35 having four (4) keyhole slots 61 which is designed to be raised in a linear direction but not rotated. In the present application, the keyhole slots 34a, 34b comprise 6mm holes with curved slots to 10mm, offset 12 degrees at 80mm PCD. Therefore, the keyhole slots 34a, 34b

permit the security cover 19 to be easily removed by rotating cover 19 slightly after security screws 20a, 20b are loosened (See page 11, lines 1-19). Therefore, Robey does not disclose or suggest the security cover 19 and keyholes 34a, 34b of the present invention.

In regard to dependent claims 12, 14, and 15, Applicant has made minor amendments for proper antecedent basis reasons, and in Claim 15 added "head" before "keying" to more definitely claim the "security screw having predetermined head keying for securing said security cover to said frame". Applicant has added new dependent method claims 16 and 17 to claim in claim 16 the step of "positioning a second gasket adjacent to a ring surface of said frame facing said enclosure", and in Claim 17 the step of "positioning a third gasket between said security cover and said frame".

Applicant believes that Claim 11 (as amended) is now distinguished and not obvious from the cited prior art of Brun, Meginnis and Robey, and that Claims 12 - 17, which are dependent on patentable independent method claim 11, are now patentable.

In view of the above, it is submitted that Claims 1, 2, and 5 - 15, as amended, along with new Claims 16 and 17, are now in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the

objections and rejections is respectfully requested.
Accordingly, it is requested that these claims be allowed and
the case be sent to issue.

If there are any questions, we urge the Examiner to call
us. Please charge any costs in connection with this document
to our Deposit Account No. 16-0875.

Respectfully Submitted,
PEARSON & PEARSON, LLP
By

Walter F. Dawson
WALTER F. DAWSON, Attorney,
Reg. No. 30,046
10 George Street
Lowell, Massachusetts 01852
TEL: 978.452.1971